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KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-69. Cancelled.

70. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein said article is a diaper.

71. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103, wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of said article.

72. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of said article.

73. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein the liner is stretchable in at least one direction.

74. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the outer cover is stretchable in said at least one direction.

KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

75. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103, wherein the liner is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

76. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is stretchable generally longitudinally and laterally of said article.

77. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is extensible generally laterally of said article.

78. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the article is subjected to  
5 a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

79. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 25 percent when the article is subjected to  
5 a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

80. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article  
5 whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 10

KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

81. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article  
5 whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

82. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the liner is generally elastic in said at least one direction.

83. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 105, wherein the outer cover is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

84. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 10 percent when the  
5 article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

85. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a

KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover  
being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the  
5 article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of  
about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer  
cover.

86. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent  
article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a  
width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover  
being capable of lateral elongation of about 30 percent when the  
5 article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of  
about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer  
cover.

87. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as  
set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending  
laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral  
elongation of about 40 percent when the article is subjected to a  
5 laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54  
cm) of width of said outer cover.

88. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent  
article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a  
width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover  
being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of  
5 said article whereby the width of said outer cover is increased  
at least about 17 percent when the article is subjected to a  
laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per  
2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

89. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of  
5 said article whereby the width of said outer cover is increased at least about 30 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said article.

90. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover comprises a necked laminate having at least one layer of a non-elastic neckable material and at least one layer of a non-elastic film.

91. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83, wherein the outer cover is elastic.

92. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91, wherein the outer cover is elastic at least laterally of the article.

93. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91 wherein the outer cover comprises a polypropylene spunbond laminated with styrene-isoprene-styrene-based adhesive.

94. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein the absorbent core is secured to at least one of said liner and said outer cover.

KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

95. Cancelled.

96. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 104 wherein said article is a diaper.

97. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 104, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

98. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 104 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

99. Cancelled.

100. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 106 wherein said article is a diaper.

101. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 106, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the front half of said article.

102. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 106 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or

KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

equal to about 30% of the surface area of the front half of said  
5 article.

103. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back halves of the article, said article comprising:

5 a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, at least one of said liner and said outer cover being stretchable in at least one direction, the article having a  
10 surface area defined at least in part by at least one of said liner and said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover and having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article, the absorbent core lying on the  
15 lateral centerline and extending longitudinally farther from said centerline into the front half of the article than into the back half of the article.

104. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein said back half of the article has a surface area and at least a portion of the absorbent core extends into the back half of the article, said portion of the  
5 absorbent core having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

105. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back halves



KCC 4846 (K-C 16,993)  
PATENT

of the article, said article having a front end and a back end,  
5 said article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's  
body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the  
liner, at least one of said liner and said outer cover being  
10 stretchable in at least one direction, the article having a  
surface area defined at least in part by at least one of said  
liner and said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer  
cover and having a front edge, a back edge, and a surface area  
15 which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article,  
the front edge of the absorbent core being in a closer proximity  
to the front end of the article than the back edge of the  
absorbent core is to the back end of the article.

106. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent  
article as set forth in claim 105 wherein said front half of the  
article has a surface area and at least a portion of the  
5 absorbent core extends into the front half of the article, said  
portion of the absorbent core having a surface area which is less  
than about 50% of the surface area of the front half of said  
article.